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# Rome News-Tribune

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2003

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## Cleanup deadline for PCBs extended

10/01/03

**By Kevin Bowen, Rome News-Tribune Staff Writer**

As General Electric waits for a response to its proposal for further study of PCB contamination around its idled Rome plant, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has extended the deadline of an administrative order until Nov. 1.

The extension of a deadline is the fourth one-month delay in the implementation of the order as the company and the agency continue their bureaucratic dance.

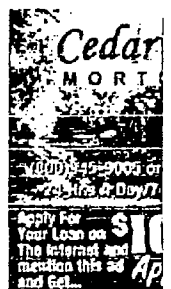
EPA spokesman Carl Terry said there is still ongoing discussion and the agency is "very hopeful" that there will be a close to the discussions in the not-too-distant future.

GE Rome Plant Manager Richard Lester said he understood that the deadline had been delayed to Nov. 1, although he had not yet seen the official paperwork notifying him of the move.

The EPA issued a unilateral administrative order for the GE site and surrounding properties along Redmond Circle on June 11. July 1 was the original effective date.

Polychlorinated biphenyls were used in the manufacture of medium transformers at GE's Rome plant from 1953-1977. The EPA classifies PCBs as a probable human carcinogen.

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At follow-up meetings, the EPA has asked the company to perform more detailed testing and monitoring of the area.

The EPA has not sent an official letter responding to proposals made by the company at a closed-door meeting Sept. 17.

After the meeting EPA official Jim Kutzman had expressed tentative satisfaction with the GE proposal.

Terry said the agency has not yet sent such a letter. Lester said he understood that the letter was "in the works."

**Local Poll**

The holiday shopping season is upon us. How do you rate your shopping plans for this season?

I'll spend a bit more than last year. ☐ 10%

I'll spend about the same. ☐ 35%

I'm cutting back because of the economy. ☐ 53%

I'm giving to charitable causes this year in each person's name. ☐ 2%

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